

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| APPLICANT(s): | Markku Lahteenmaki | CONF. NO.: | 9768 |
| SERIAL NO.: | 09/975,516 | ART UNIT: | 2617 |
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| TITLE: | COMMUNICATION DEVICE | | |
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Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

This is in response to the Office Action mailed 24 August 2007 for this application.

Reconsideration of the rejection of the claims is respectfully solicited in light of the following amendment and remarks.

II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A communication device comprising at least::

a housing having at least a first part and a second part, and

a user interface, including at least a first keypad and a display, wherein a portion of the user interface is arranged to be replaceable by placing a replacement cover not always present on the communication device in a detachable manner in connection with the housing,

wherein the second part is adapted to be removed before inserting the replacement cover in place of the second part, and that said replacement cover includes at least keys for applications and changing the functionality of the first keypad,

and wherein at least part of the first keypad is provided in said replacement cover.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The communication device according to claim 1, wherein the replacement cover includes a display.

4. (Currently Amended) The communication device according to ~~claim 2~~claim 1, wherein the replacement cover includes at least a cover part and a functional cover, that the keys for applications includes key elements for detecting a pressing of the keys of the first keypad, and that the replacement cover further comprises means for transferring information about the keystrokes to the communication device.

5. (Previously Presented) The communication device according to claim 1, wherein the second part includes the first keypad, wherein the keys for applications includes a second keypad, wherein the replacement cover is arranged to be fixed onto the second

part, and that the keys of said second keypad are placed in such a way that when the replacement cover is fixed onto the second part, at least some of the keys of the second keypad are at the location of at least one key of the first keypad, wherein the user interface includes the display and the second keypad.

6. (Previously Presented) The communication device according to claim 5, wherein the communication device includes means for activating the keys of the second keypad to function non-simultaneously with the keys of the first keypad.

7. (Previously Presented) The communication device according to claim 1, wherein it is a wireless communication device.

8. (Currently Amended) The communication device according to claim 1, wherein the keys for applications of the replacement cover includes a one touchable area for a key function which touchable area is larger than the touchable area of the ~~the~~ first keypad.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for changing the user interface in a communication device including at least a housing having at least a first part and a second part, and means for providing user interface functions having at least a first keypad and a display, the method comprising:

changing the user interface by removing the second part and placing a replacement cover not always present on the communication device in a detachable manner in connection with the housing and in place of the second part, ~~and~~

equipping the replacement cover with at least means for providing keys for applications and changing the functionality of the first keypad, and

providing at least part of the first keypad in the replacement cover.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, including:

placing the first keypad in the replacement cover which is formed of a cover part and a functional cover, and which replacement cover is equipped with key elements for detecting the stroke of keys of said first keypad, and

transferring information about the keystrokes from the replacement cover to the communication device.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, including providing the replacement cover with a second keypad in such a way that when the replacement cover is fixed onto the second part of the housing, at least some of the keys of the second keypad are located by at least one key of the first keypad.

13. (Currently Amended) A communication device comprising at least:

a housing having at least a first part and a second part, and

means for providing user interface functions, including at least a first keypad and a display, wherein a portion of the user interface functions are arranged to be replaceable by placing a replacement cover not always present on the communication device in a detachable manner in connection with the housing, wherein the second part is adapted to be removed before inserting the replacement cover in place of the second part, and that said replacement cover includes at least means for providing keys for applications and changing the functionality of the first keypad, and wherein at least part of the first keypad is provided in said replacement cover.

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1, 3-9, and 11-13 remain in the application. Claims 2 and 10 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 8, 9, 11, and 13 have been amended.

2. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 5-9, and 11-13 are patentable over the combination of Green (WO 98/10571 in view of Weadon et al. (US 5,999,827, "Weadon") and Petrella et al. (US 5,745,566, "Petrella") under 35 USC 103(a).

The combination of Green, Weadon, and Petrella at least fails to disclose or suggest:

a user interface, including at least a first keypad and a display, wherein a portion of the user interface is arranged to be replaceable by placing a replacement cover not always present on the communication device in a detachable manner in connection with the housing,

and wherein at least part of the first keypad is provided in said replacement cover,

as recited by claim 1;

changing the user interface by removing the second part and placing a replacement cover not always present on the communication device in a detachable manner in connection with the housing and in place of the second part, and

providing at least part of the first keypad in the replacement cover,

as recited by claim 9; and

means for providing user interface functions, including at least a first keypad and a display, wherein a portion of the user interface functions are arranged to be replaceable by placing a replacement cover not always present on the communication device in a detachable manner in connection with the housing,

and wherein at least part of the first keypad is provided in said replacement cover,

as recited by claim 13.

2.1 There is no disclosure in Green related to providing at least part of the first keypad in a replacement cover. Green discloses a keypad adaptor which can be mounted on a conventional keypad of a phone without removing anything from the phone. The adaptor comprises keys which are preferably larger, more spaced out, and fewer in number than the keys of the conventional keypad. However, Green does not provide at least part of the first keypad in a replacement cover.

2.2 Weadon also fails to disclose or suggest that at least part of the first keypad is provided in a replacement cover. Weadon discloses a radiotelephone having a primary keypad and a movable flip cover that contains a secondary keypad. The flip cover is movable between a closed position wherein at least a portion of a primary keypad is covered, and an open position wherein the primary keypad is uncovered. When the second keypad is in the closed position, keys of the second keypad can press the underlying keys of the first keypad. The telephone can be aware of the position of the flip and assign different functions to the selected keys depending on the position of the flip. The flip cover does not include at least part of the first keypad and thus part of the first keypad is not provided in a replacement cover.

2.3 Petrella also fails to disclose or suggest providing at least part of the first keypad in a replacement cover. Petrella discloses a portable communication device having removable, snap-fit escutcheon elements. The escutcheon elements allow a user to alter or customize the appearance of their telephone. However, Petrella has nothing that even suggests that at least part of the first keypad is provided in a replacement cover.

Because the combination of Green, Weadon, and Petrella fails to disclose all the features of independent claims 1, 9, and 13, in particular that at least part of the first keypad is provided in a replacement cover, the cited combination cannot render these

claims or dependent claims 5-8, 11 and 12 unpatentable. At least for these reasons, claims 1, 5-9, and 11-13 are patentable over the combination of Green, Weadon, and Petrella.

3. Applicant notes that on page 2 of the present action the Examiner continues to refer to clauses that have been eliminated from the present independent claims some time ago. For example, the Examiner continues to argue that Green shows a communication device "wherein the user interface is arranged to be replaceable by placing a replacement cover in a detachable manner in connection with the housing, substantially parallel to the second part, onto or in place of the second part... (Emphasis added). In contrast, present claim 1 before being amended stated that "a portion of the user interface is arranged to be replaceable by placing a replacement cover on the communication device in a detachable manner in connection with the housing, wherein the second part is adapted to be removed before inserting the replacement cover in place of the second part..."

4. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3 and 4 are patentable over the combination of Green, Weadon, and Petrella, further in view of Fuhrmann et al. (WO 97/32423, "Fuhrmann").

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1.

4.1 Fuhrmann fails to supply the features missing from the combination of Green, Weadon, and Petrella argued above, that is, wherein at least part of the first keypad is provided in said replacement cover. Fuhrmann only discloses changing the appearance of a device by changing the cover. The functions of the device remain the same and more importantly, there is no disclosure in Fuhrmann related to providing at least part of the first keypad in a replacement cover.

Thus, the combination of Green, Weadon, Petrella, and Fuhrmann fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claim 1 and therefore fails to render claims 3 and 4 unpatentable.

5. Applicant notes that on page 7 of the present action the Examiner refers to clauses that were removed from claim 2 some time ago and fails to address the features of claim 2 as previously presented and that are now part of the independent claims. Page 7 of the present Action states:

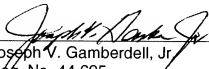
As to claim 2, the Green-Weadon-Petrella ... does not disclose the second part is arranged to be detached before fixing the replacement cover onto the first part. The Fuhrmann reference teaches the second part is arranged to be detached before fixing the replacement cover onto the first part".

Applicant respectfully submits that the features of claim 2 now included in the independent claims are properly stated as: "*at least part of the first keypad is provided in said replacement cover*" and that neither Fuhrmann nor the other cited references disclose or suggest this feature.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph V. Gamberdell, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,695

26 November 2007
Date

Perman & Green, LLP
425 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512

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